

## Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 205168 ACTION BUCHAREST 28 AUG 75

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, UR

SUBJECT: COOPERATION BETWEEN GOR, ERDA AND NRC

REFS: A) BUCHAREST 3557; B) BUCHAREST 3660; C) STATE  
181670; D) STATE 199548

FOR SCIATT

1. REFS (A) AND (B) SUGGEST THERE IS FAIR AMOUNT OF CON-  
FUSION ON PART OF NCST CONCERNING SUBJECT COOPERATION.  
DEPARTMENT, ERDA AND NRC HOPE FOLLOWING WILL HELP CLEAR UP  
THIS SITUATION.

2. AS EMBASSY MAY RECALL, ROMANIANS HAVE TWICE PROVIDED  
ERDA WITH LIST OF PROPOSED COOPERATIVE PROJECTS RANGING  
FROM FAST BREEDER REACTOR TECHNOLOGY TO NON-NUCLEAR  
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COOPERATION IN COAL RESEARCH. BOTH LISTS SUFFERED FROM  
SAME DEFICIENCY, NAMELY INSUFFICIENT DETAIL CONCERNING  
PRESENT OR PLANNED PROGRAMS. FURTHER, IN MEETING WITH  
MATACHE ERDA REPRESENTATIVES STRESSED THAT BEFORE ANY AGREE-

MENT COULD BE CONCLUDED, FURTHER DETAILED INFORMATION GIVING SCOPE, AND LEVEL OF ROMANIAN EFFORT WAS A SINE QUA NON. TO DATE ERDA HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY COMMUNICATIONS FROM ROMANIANS IN THIS REGARD.

3. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE.ERDA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL NON-NUCLEAR ENERGY R&D AS WELL AS NUCLEAR FIELDS INCLUDING BREEDER REACTORS AND CONTROLLED THERMONUCLEAR RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY. ERDA IS PREPARED TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER ROMANIAN PROPOSALS IN WHICH THERE IS GENUINE MUTUAL INTEREST AND BENEFIT. ERDA DOES NOT NECESSARILY REQUIRE QUID-PRO-QUO IN IDENTICAL AREAS IF OVERALL COOPERATION REPRESENTS REASONABLE BALANCE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT. ERDA DOES REQUIRE SUFFICIENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON EACH PROPOSAL TO ALLOW PROGRAM MANAGERS TO MAKE MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENTS AS TO ANY MUTUAL BENEFIT.

4. AS A FIRST STEP, NCST SHOULD SUBMIT DETAILED INFORMATION ON PROPOSED COOPERATIVE PROJECTS. THESE PROPOSALS WILL BE GIVEN TO ERDA PROGRAM MANAGERS FOR REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF INTEREST. SUGGESTED SECOND STEP WOULD BE VISIT BY MANZATU OR PERSON OF SIMILAR CALIBER TO DISCUSS ANY REMAINING QUESTIONS. DURING THIS VISIT NRC WOULD ATTEND MEETING TO DISCUSS NRC'S POSITION ON COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR SAFETY. (SEE PARA 6 BELOW.) THIRD STEP COULD BE POSSIBLE RETURN VISIT BY US DELEGATION TO SEE FIRST-HAND ROMANIAN R&D EFFORTS AND NEGOTIATION OF TERMS OF EXCHANGE. FINAL STEP WOULD BE CONCLUSION OF APPROPRIATE COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT. FROM A PROCEDURAL STANDPOINT, THE DEPARTMENT AND ERDA BELIEVE THIS COULD BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED UNDER DECEMBER 1974 US-GOR CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT.

5. IT IS IMPORTANT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS COVERED ABOVE AND AN AGREEMENT INVOLVING TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR TECHNOLOGY MENTIONED PARA 3 REF (A), AND REQUESTED FORMALLY BY ROMANIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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AMBASSADOR BOGDAN ON AUGUST 19 (REF (D)). THIS AGREEMENT SHOULD BE SEPARATE INSTRUMENT AND REQUIRES DIFFERENT FORMAT. PROCEDURES LEADING TO SUCH AGREEMENT WERE EXPLAINED TO MITRAN DURING HIS VISIT TO ERDA, GERMANTOWN HEADQUARTERS JUNE 13 (SEE PENKOWSKY'S MEMCON JUNE 17, 1975). MITRAN WAS ADVISED THAT REQUIRED US INTERNAL PROCEDURES COUPLED WITH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE TIME-CONSUMING. MOREOVER, DR. GANLEY REMINDED BOGDAN ON AUGUST 19 THAT NEGOTIATION OF A BILATERAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT IS AN EXTREMELY COMPLICATED MATTER, PARTICULARLY SINCE THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST ONE WITH A SOCIALIST COUNTRY.

6. CONTRARY TO PARA 2 REF (A) ROMANIAN EMBASSY HAS NOT, REPEAT NOT, INVITED ERDA AND NRC DELEGATION TO BUCHAREST TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR ENERGY COOPERATION. TO DATE, NRC HAS CONCLUDED FORMAL EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENTS ONLY WITH COUNTRIES THAT HAVE RELATIVELY ADVANCED NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAMS.

WHILE NRC DOES NOT NECESSARILY PRECLUDE POSSIBILITY OF SOME KIND OF REGULATORY INFORMATION OR REACTOR SAFETY RESEARCH EXCHANGE WITH ROMANIA, NO SUCH ACTIVITY HAS BEEN GIVEN CONSIDERATION PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF ROMANIAN INTEREST IN SOVIET AND CANADIAN REACTOR SYSTEMS.

7. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF ERDA DELEGATION SCHEDULED TO VISIT BUCHAREST SEPTEMBER 2-4 IS TO REVIEW EFFICACY OF PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES APPLICABLE TO HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM SUPPLIED BY US FOR TRIGA RESEARCH REACTOR. THIS DELEGATION IS NOT, REPEAT NOT, AUTHORIZED TO UNDERTAKE NEGOTIATIONS ON R&D EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENTS OR NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR BILATERAL AGREEMENT. INGERSOLL

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